

Serial No.: 09/880,723
Docket No.: 70655.7800

Amendments To Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of processing product orders, via a network, to allow consumers to order products from a plurality of merchants from a web page comprising a consistent user interface, comprising the steps of:

retrieving a universal shopping cart;

searching a local database for information relating to a product prior to searching a plurality of at least one of: affiliated and unaffiliated websites for said information;

displaying said information from said plurality of at least one of: affiliated and unaffiliated websites within said web page comprising a consistent user interface;

receiving a product selection command from a consumer indicative of selecting a product;

adding said selected product to said universal shopping cart;

determining whether said selected product is from an affiliated web site;

transmitting an order for said selected product directly to an owner of said affiliated web site when said selected product is from said affiliated web site;

injecting a product order at one of said plurality of at least one of: affiliated and an unaffiliated website websites when said selected product is from said unaffiliated web site associated with said selected product in said universal shopping cart, wherein said product order is injected to an unaffiliated website according to pattern matching; and,

identifying a common accepted payment method from said plurality of merchants, wherein said common accepted payment method is displayed within said webpage.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving said universal shopping cart comprises determining whether an existing universal shopping cart is associated with the consumer; and creating a new universal shopping cart when no existing universal shopping cart is associated with the consumer.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving reputation information on the consumer from a reputation database and sending said reputation information to said merchant.

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5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said reputation information on the consumer is gathered by polling a subset of said plurality of merchants on their experience with the consumer.

Claims 6-9 (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the process of injecting said product order is performed by obtaining services from a merchant's site associated with said selected product; pattern matching said services; and creating instances of parameterized service for each state that contain essential details required to navigate said merchant's site and place said product order, wherein a state is a set of methods and data that have input criteria and exit criteria for any section of the form in the check out process.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said services are obtained from said merchant's site by obtaining a copy of each page of said merchant's site relating to product orders using a plurality of accounts.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the process of injecting said product order is performed according to an order injection process comprising obtaining services from a merchant Web site associated with said selected product; pattern matching said services to find a set of common characteristics of said services; and creating service equivalent classes that contain essential details required to navigate said merchant Web site and place said product order.

Claims 13-21 (cancelled)

22. (presently presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said product information includes information on a plurality of products of the same product type sold by a plurality of merchants to allow the consumer to view product information on said web page comprising a consistent user interface in order to compare products of the same product type sold by different merchants.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising assigning a product key to each of said at least one selected product to uniquely identify each of said at least one selected product and a merchant associated with said at least one selected product.

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24. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said universal shopping cart is retrieved from a universal shopping cart database that includes consumer information and information on any previously saved product items.

Claims 25-26 (cancelled)

27. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the consumer is an electronic agent of a human consumer.

Claims 28-47 (cancelled)

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said local database is populated with said information by at least one product vendor.

Claims 49-51 (cancelled)

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically removing from said universal shopping cart said selected product when a price for said selected product reaches a predetermined level.